

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03005 281001Z

13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

----- 064906

O R 280850Z FEB 74 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5170

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONGKONG

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3005

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: -

SUBJ: KHMER SITUATIONER

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

1. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT ITEMS 2 - 6 DESCRIBE THE MOST  
SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

2. REPORTS ARRIVING IN PHNOM PENH TODAY INDICATE THAT OVER  
TWO THOUSAND VILLAGERS, INCLUDING 120 MONKS, FLED A COMMUNIST-  
CONTROLLED AREA NORTHEAST OF KOMPONG CHHANG DURING THE PAST  
THREE DAYS IN ORDER TO RESETTLE UNDER GOVERNMENT SECURITY  
EAST OF THE CITY. THEIR DECISION TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES  
WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A FANK OFFENSIVE INTO THE COMMUNIST-  
CONTROLLED AREA BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 26 IN THE COURSE OF  
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 03005 281001Z

WHICH EIGHTEEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN

KILLED AND NUMEROUS WEAPONS SEIZED. THE MOVEMENT OF THE VILLAGERS PARALLELS THAT OF THE OVER TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE WHO RECENTLY CHOSE TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES IN COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS NORTH AND WEST OF KOMPONG THOM AND RESETTLE UNDER GOVERNMENT SECURITY NEAR THAT CITY.

3. CONFIRMING REPORTS RECEIVED LATE YESTERDAY FROM THE FRONT NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, ELEMENTS OF THE KHMER ARMY'S SEVENTH DIVISION AND EIGHTIETH BRIGADE MOVING FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH RESPECTIVELY HAVE ADVANCED THROUGH HEAVILY FORTIFIED COMMUNIST POSITIONS AND ARE CLOSE TO LINKING UP NEAR BOEUNG PREY, TWENTY KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE CITY. GOVERNMENT FORCES YESTERDAY DISCOVERED THIRTY NEW COMMUNIST GRAVES AND CAPTURED THIRTY BOXES OF AMMUNITION.

4. IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA YESTERDAY, GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE MULTI-BATTALION SWEEPING OPERATION ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG NORTHEAST OF THE CITY. COMMUNIST FORCES WITHDRAW AS GOVERNMENT UNITS ADVANCED SEVERAL KILOMETERS EASTWARD ALONG A BROAD NORTH-SOUTH FRONT. CASUALTIES FOR BOTH SIDES WERE REPORTED AS HAVING BEEN LIGHT.

5. GOVERNMENT FORCES UNDER TAKEO SUB-DIVISION COMMANDER COL. KIEN TRI YESTERDAY KILLED FIFTEEN COMMUNIST SOLDIERS AND CAPTURED TWELVE RIFLES, ONE MACHINE GUN, FIFTY GRENADES AND TWO CASES OF AMMUNITION. YESTERDAY'S ENGAGEMENT WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE SERIES OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS DESIGNED TO EXPAND THE TAKEO PERIMETER THAT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT DURING THE PAST WEEK. A TOTAL OF ONE-HUNDRED AND FOUR COMMUNIST SOLDIERS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED SINCE FEBRUARY 24. KHMER AIR FORCE PLANES PROVIDED CLOSE-IN AIR SUPPORT FOR YESTERDAY'S OPERATION.

6. SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH YESTERDAY COMMUNIST ELEMENTS REOCCUPIED SOME POSITIONS THEY HAD LOST IN LAST WEEK'S SUCCESSFUL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS ALONG RT. 38. GOVERNMENT LOSSES IN YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT TO MODERATE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 03005 281001Z

7. THIRTY COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED KILLED YESTERDAY AND SEVEN CAPTURED IN HEAVY FIGHTING AT THE CUT ON RT. 4 TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU.

8. ELEMENTS OF THE KHMER ARMY'S SECOND DIVISION YESTERDAY DROVE ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE BASSAC-MEKONG PENINSULA SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH RE-ESTABLISHING GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE SECOND OF TWO FANK OUTPOSTS WHICH COMMUNIST

TROOPS HAD OCCUPIED ON FEBRUARY 26. KHMER AIR FORCE  
T-28'S SUPPORTED THE OPERATION.

9. GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SUSTAINED  
MODERATE TO HEAVY CASUALTIES YESTERDAY IN A SWEEP OPERA-  
TION NEAR THE FANK OUTPOST AT PUOK SIXTEEN KILOMETERS  
NORTHWEST OF SIEM REAP. ELSEWHERE IN THE REPUBLIC, LIGHT  
COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AT PREK TAMERK  
TWENTY KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH AND AT PEAM CHHUR  
ON THE MEKONG SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH.

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## Message Attributes

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